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29 Augt. 1810 } 36 Days

St. John's Plains, Wednes

This being the time a

the convention of the repr

of the Jurisdiction of the

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elected by the people of th

having powers and Instruct

at Baton-Rouge or where [illegible] may

Confer with him on existing g

to which the people and the

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devise the most effectual pl

of the Province, and to giv

Laws" - viz: from the District of

John H. Johnson, William Barrow, John [illegible] and John Rhea, - from the District of Baton-Rouge Philip Hickey, Thomas Lilley, Manuel Lopez, John Morgan and Edmund Hawes - from the District St. Helena, John W. Leonard; Joseph Thomas, William Spiller and Benjamin O. Williams, and from the Districts of Tanchipaho and Chifuncte, William Cooper. — The Convention unanimously elected Mr. John Rhea President and Messrs. Andrew Steele George Mather Junr. and Samuel Shaw Crocker, Secretaries. — and a motion being made and seconded that the President and Secretaries form such Rules as may be proper to be observed by the members during the Session, and the same being agreed to, the Convention adjourned until tomorrow morning at nine oClock.

Geo. Mather Junr. Secy.   John Rhea Presidt.

ursday morning July 26th

tion met according to adjournment the

present as Yesterday, when the following Ru

agreed to, for the conduct to be obser

this Convention. Viz: —

all rise when about to make any motio

d shall address the President. —

interrupt another when speaking

which may arise betwixt any

specting the right of speaking first,

der point of order, shall be decided by the

—

hall be acted on until seconded nor

n made, until a previous one shall

hon or withdrawn. —

retire during the hours of Session

ave obtained of the President. —

5. No personalities or indecorous language shall be used in debate, and the President shall silence any member violating this rule. —

6th Every Question to be decided shall be proposed by the President, who shall declare it to be decided according to the Votes of a majority of the Members, and in case of an equal division of the other members he shall have the casting Vote. —

7th Every member shall attend the meeting of the Convention until the adjournment thereof by a majority of Votes, unless leave of absence be obtained for special reasons approved by a majority of the members, — but two thirds of the whole number of Delegates shall be a Quorum to do business. —

8th The hours of Session shall be from nine o'clock in the morning until three in the afternoon —

unleſs otherwise ordered [illegible] Con
and the proceedings of each Day signed by the
President and one of the Secretaries. —

On Motion of Mr. John W Leonard seconded by
Thomas Lilley, It is unanimously Resolved, That it is the
immediate object of this aſsembly, to promote the safety
honor, & happineſs of his majesty's Province of West
Florida (we mean Ferdinand the 7th) to guard against
his enemies both foreign and domestic; to punish wrongs
and to correct abuses dangerous to the existence and pros-
-perity of the State. —

On motion of Mr. John W. Leonard seconded by Mr. Thomas
Lilley it is resolved unanimously that this convention conside
themselves legally authorised by the Decree of his Excellency
hereto prefixed, to exercise the powers and perform the duties
expreſsed in the proceedings of Yesterday.

On Motion it is agreed that the Convention do now take into
consideration the existing grievances of the Country which
require immediate redreſs, whereupon the following being
proposed were unanimously agreed to Viz.

On Motion of Mr. ~~Hicky~~ Lilley seconded by Mr. ~~Barrow~~ Haws, resolved
that we consider it a grievance that while the country is a
place of refuge for the deserters and fugitives from Justice
of the neighbouring States & Territories, Men of Character
and fortunes are prohibited from settling among us, by which
means a population is daily increasing dangerous to the
peace and safety of the Country, while we have no
increase of such as are interested in maintaining ~~the~~
order and obedience to the Laws. —

On motion of Mr. Hicky seconded by Mr. Barrow, resolved
that we consider it a grievance, that in the present
defenceleſs state of the country, when we are by no means
secure, either from domestic insurrection or Foreign invasion
no efficient measures are pursued to organize, arm,
and discipline the Militia, to act with promptitude
in defence of the country

On motion of Mr Cooper seconded by Mr Spiller resolved, that we consider it a grievance that evil disposed persons are not deterred from the commission of Crimes, by examples of the speedy and condign punishment of Offenders, there being no Tribunal among us competent to give final Judgment in criminal cases, by which means the most atrocious Criminals either go unpunished or are sent to a diſtant Tribunal, so that no advantage is derived from the example of the punishment inflicted. —

On motion of Mr Johnson seconded by Mr Barrow, resolved, that we consider it a grievance that much expence and delay in obtaining Justice in civil cases arises from the want of a Tribunal among us competent to decide finally on all points of Law and Equity from the too limited Jurisdiction of ~~civil~~ inferior civil Magistrates in the several Districts of this Government, and from the regulation which requires that all proceſs be conducted in a language not understood by a large majority of the People. —

On Motion of Mr Barrow seconded by Mr Spiller, resolved, that we consider as a grievance the abuses and irregularities which have been practised in the Office of the Surveyor for this Department of the Goverment, for some years past, by which means many causes of litigation are likely to arise, and many of the Inhabitants in danger of being deprived of their Just Claims, and that the boundaries of land having been made by legal authority these lands should be resurveyed at any time after with a view to alter their boundaries. —

On Motion of Mr Thomas seconded by Mr Hicky resolved that we consider as a grievance the

want

want or almost entire neglect of Laws respe
Roads, Slaves, and live-Stock of every descrip
in the country. —

On Motion of Mr. Lilley seconded by Mr. Spille
it is ordered that a committee of five members b
appointed to draft a plan for the redress of the
existing grievances and for the defence and safety
of the Country, and that the said Committee report to
the convention by Bill or otherwise. — and it is
further ordered that the members of the said Committee
be elected by ballot — when Messrs. John H. Johnson
Thomas Lilley, John W. Leonard, Philip Hicky and
John Mills were duely elected.

On Motion of Mr. Lopez seconded by Mr. Hicky
resolved, that we consider it as a grievance that
no Fee-bills, are exibited by Officers in the em
of the Government, by which ~~means~~ neglect the Inhabit
are subjected to impositions and extravagant char
by many of the said Officers for their services; and that
Petitions of pressing importance, when presented are
often neglected or remain for a long time unanswered.

On Motion of Mr. J. W. Leonard seconded by Mr.
Spiller, resolved, that an uniform standard of
Weights and Measures, be established throughout
this Province, and that the select committee deter-
=mine the best mode of carrying the same into effect.

On Motion of J. W. Leonard seconded by Mr. Spiller
resolved, that we consider the facility with which the
Exiled French, from our Island of Cuba, have found
means ~~to~~ of introduce themselves into this Province, a very
Serious and alarming grievance and that prompt
measures ought to be resorted to, to prevent their future
introduction. — The Convention then adjourned
until tomorrow morning at nine o'clock. —

George Mather Jun Secy John Rhea President

Friday, July 27th

The Convention met according to adjournment the same members present, except Mr John H. Johnson as Yesterday. —

On motion of Mr Williams seconded by Mr Spiller resolved, that it is a grievance that a number of the Inhabitants who now are and have been for some years past residents in this Province are unable to obtain Titles to lands on which they have settled by permiſsion of Government, In consequence of ~~which~~ a mistaken policy or design in the Officers of Government; and which lands are occupied by numbers of his Majesty's subjects who are willing to come forward in support of the general good and defence of the Country.

On Motion of Mr Spiller seconded by Mr Williams resolved that it is a grievance that there is no punishment or penalty prescribed for persons guilty of an Aſsault and Battery; nor has any provision ever been made to punish the wicked slander; both of which Crimes paſs unnoticed and they well deserve the ~~notice~~ attention of this Council.

On Motion of Mr Hicky seconded by Mr Lilley resolved, that it becomes the duty of this Province to leſsen as much as poſsible the burthens of the mother country, engaged as she is at present in a dubious Contest for her own preservation; and that provision ought to be made as soon as poſsible for defraying the expences of this department of the Government from such resources as may be found within the country that such part of the national treasure as we might have a claim to hereafter for that purpose may be employed for more useful and important national objects. —

On Motion of Mr Lilley seconded by Mr J W. Leonard

resolved

resolved that it is the unanimous wish of this Convention to proceed in all our deliberations for the public wellfare with the entire approbation of His Excellency Charles Dehault Delassus our presen Governor, and that we become responsible with him to the superior authorities for the expediency of the measures which may be adopted with his concurrence; that we engage to support him as our Governor with the emoluments appertaining to his present office, and to give him all the aid in our power in the execution of the duties thereof.—

On motion of Mr Lilley seconded by Mr Lopez resolved that Mr Rhea, Mr Leonard & Mr Spiller be a Committee to prepare an address to his Excellency Charles Dehault Delassus informing him of the meeting of this convention, of the resolution which they have adopted relative to his Excellency, of the unani the which has prevailed in their deliberations; and of their intention to wait upon him in a body as soon as they shall have arranged the subjects of deliberation in such a form as they may think proper to submi to his consideration; that the committee inform his Excellency that this Convention will this day adjourn their meeting until the 2d Monday in August next; that a Committee will Continue in Session, wh will be empowered to receive any Communications th his Excellency may be pleased to make; and that the said Comittee report this afternoon.—

On motion of Mr J. W. Leonard seconded by Mr Morgan resolved, that this convention, created by the whole body of the People of the Government of Baton Roug and by the previous consent of the Governor, is therefore legally constituted to act in all cases of national concern, which relate to this province; to provide for the Public safety; to create a revenue and by and with the consent of the Govern to create Tribunals, civil and criminal: an define their own Powers relating to other bran of the Government — when to adjourn; when t again and how long to Continue their Session.

On Motion of Mr Hicky seconded by Mr Thomas resolved that the convention adjourn this afternoon, to meet at this Place on the 2d Monday in August next, to receive the report of the committee appointed to draft a plan for the redress of existing grievances, and for the defence and for the ~~defence~~ safety of the country and to proceed in the discharge of their other duties enjoined by their constituents. —

On motion of Mr Lopez seconded by Mr Lilley resolved that it be recommended to the committee appointed to provide for the redress of existing grievances, to take into consideration the expediency of appointing a Counsellor well acquainted with the Laws of Castille and the Indies whose duty it shall be to give his opinion in writing to the superior Tribunal of Justice on all important questions or points of Law which may arise in the discussion of the causes submitted to their ~~[illegible]~~ decision. —

On Motion of Mr Spiller seconded by Mr J. W. Leonard, resolved that no member of this convention shall be arrested by any Civil Process during their Session or prorogation, nor when travelling to or from the Place of meeting until a final adjournment thereof.

Mr Leonard from the committee appointed to prepare an address to his Excellency Charles Dehault Delassus reported the following

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"St Johns Plains 27th July 1810

"To His Excellency Don Carlos Dehault Delassus Colo
"of the Royal Armies, Governor Civil & Military of the
"Place and Jurisdiction of Baton Rouge &c.

"Sir

"The Delegates representing the Inhabitants "of the several Districts of the Jurisdiction under your "Command in convention assembled at this place, respectfully represent to your Excellency, that in entering "upon the discharge of the duties enjoined upon us by our "Constituents; we derive great satisfaction from the consideration that our meeting is sanctioned by Your "approbation, and we consider it one of our first "duties to thank your Excellency, in the name of all "the good people of this Jurisdiction for Your attention "to the wishes of the Inhabitants, and for Your generous "efforts to preserve the public tranquility in a time of "general anxiety and alarm. - We have considered it "~~as the~~ immediate object of our deliberations, to promote "the safety, honor and happiness of this part of the "Dominions of our beloved King Ferdinand the seventh, "to guard against his enemies foreign or Domestic; "to punish wrongs, and correct abuses dangerous to "the existence and prosperity of the Province; and "trust that the measures which may be adopted, will "be received with indulgence by your Excellency, and meet "your approbation and concurrence.

"In taking into consideration the existing grievances "and the dangers to which the people and their property "are exposed, a variety of subjects have been suggested ~~as~~ "as evils which require redress; but we think it unnecessary to "trouble Your Excellency with a detail of our proceedings, "or the result of our ~~proceedings~~ deliberations on these subjects, in "all which the greatest unanimity has prevailed, as it is "our intention to wait on your Excellency in a body, so soon "as the subjects shall be arranged in such a form as "may be proper to submit to your consideration. — One "of our Resolutions however we think it our duty at this early "sta of our meeting, to communicate as it stands recorded "on our Journal in the following words. —

Resol

"Resolved that it is the unanimous wish of this Convention to proceed in all our deliberations for the public welfare with the intire approbation of his Excellency Charles Dehault Delassus our present Governor, and that we become responsible with him to the superior authorities for the expediency of the measures which may be adopted with his concurrence, that we engage to support him as our Governor, with the emoluments appertaining to his present Office, and to give him all the aid in our power in the execution of the duties thereof.

"It is proper to inform Your Excellency that having ~~that having~~ intrusted to a select committee to form a plan for the redress of the existing grievances, and for the defence and safety of the country, we propose to adjourn the convention until the second monday in August next, when it is intented to meet again at this place to receive the report of the said Committee and proceed in the discharge of the other duties injoined by our Constituents — In the mean time the said Committee, consisting of Messrs. Thomas Lilley John H. Johnson, John W. Leonard, Philip Hicky and John Mills, remaining in Session at this Place will receive any communication which your Excellency may be pleased to make. —

"We have appointed three of our members Messrs. Philip Hicky Manuel Lopez and Joseph Thomas a Committee to wait on Your Excellency with this address — We pray God to preserve your Excellency many Years." —

And the same being read was unanimously ~~agreed~~ agreed to. —

On Motion of Mr. Spiller seconded by Mr. Leonard,
Resolved that Messrs. Philip Hicky, Manuel Lopez,

and

Joseph Thomas be a committee to wait on his Ex the Governor with the foregoing address.—

On motion of Mr Hicky seconded by Mr Lopez: resolved that we consider as a grievance the inconveniences arising from the want of a Port of entry in the Jurisdiction of Baton-Rouge.—

On motion of Mr Lilley seconded by Mr Hicky resolved that during the recess of this Convention, the President with the advice and consent of the committee be authorised to call a meeting thereof, at any time when he may think it expedient.—

This Convention then adjourned until the 2d Monday in August next.—

George Mather Junr Secry   John Rhea, President

St John's Plains Monday August 13th 1810.—

The Convention met according to adjournment; Present Messrs John Rhea, William Barrow, John Mills, Philip Hicky, Thomas Lilley, Manuel Lopez, John Morgan Edmund Hawes, John W. Leonard, Joseph Thomas, William Spiller, Benjamin O Williams and William Cooper.

Mr Mills from the Committee appointed to draft a Plan for the redress of the existing grievances, and for the defence and safety of the Country, presented a letter from his Excellency Charles Dehault Delassus, together with a translation thereof by William Herries Esqr received by the said Committee during the recess of the Convention which are ordered to be filed with the proceedings, and the said translation to be entered on the Journal in the following words. Viz:

"Messrs Thomas Lilley, John H. Johnson, John W. Leonard Philip Hicky & John Mills, Commissaries named by the Gentlemen Deputies of the people by superior Authority."

"Gentlemen Deputies

"Through the three Gentlemen approv
by the Deputation, Philip Hicky, Manuel L,
and Joseph Thomas Esquires, I received on
28th. of this month the message which the
held with my Permission addressed to me unde
the date of the twenty seventh Instant." —

"Being informed of its contents, I have to
express to You how much it is tranquilizing an
satisfactory to me to see the unanimity existing
among the Deputies of the People; shewing above
all their Patriotism in the beginning of their
deliberations, with the view of promoting the se-
curity, honour and fidelity of this Part of the
Dominions of our beloved King and Lord Fer-
dinand the seventh." —

"When I was informed of the attempts made
to create disturbances in this faithful population
I did not doubt a moment of the general loyalty
of those who had not ceased to give proofs
of it since they took the proper oath to the
Spanish Standard, and in this persuasion, I
sent immediately George Mather & Philip
Hicky Esquires to Bayou Sarah, (from whence
all alarming News appeared to come) in order tha
in Concert with the Commandant there; and
Assembly of the Inhabitants might be held, because I hoped that
once they should be met together, the less informe
would be quieted, and there would be a cessation of
uneasiness arising from the perverse insinua-
tions propagated by the evil minded, envious of
our loyalty and harmony; and from thence
has arisen the present assembly which I have

4 permitted without hesitation, as it now exists; because its labours (as I comprehend) we shall acquire permanent tranquility in this Territory, exempted from foreign intrigues, which have no other object but the ruin of our honoured inhabitants.

I esteem as I ought the thanks You are pleased to offer me in these Circumstances, but no other Idea having suggested itself to me than that of fulfilling the duties of my honourable Employment, to preserve entire this part of his Catholic Majesty's Dominions confided to my Care, I have done nothing more than to accomplish as far as in my power the precepts of my obligation, the dispostion whereof I really flatter myself, may tranquilize the people, and with these Ideas, I shall always be found disposed to Contribute with You in preserving that tranquility, provided at all times, it appears to me, You are not in the smallest thing in opposition to the Laws which rule us, to the Disposition of my superiors, and against my instructions, which I firmly believe to be your intentions; and this belief leads me to comprehend you will confine yourselves to represent to me the injuries which some may have sustained, or in general, and of which I have not been informed, to act in Justice as I have done when the case has come to my knowledge. —

But one of the essential points of which it is ~~most~~ very urgent I be informed, as you must feel, is that every good Inhabitant, be bound to declare and give me entire knowledge, if they know it, (as they are obliged to do by the Proclamation published in this place and other Districts of my Dependence) Who is the Author or Authors of the seditious Pasquinades to stir up the People, and of the false rumours which were spread in the different Districts, to Create the belief that the People had risen, even so far as to assert as a fact the Crime incurred of having hoisted the Standard of Independence; and circulating this infernal project the day on which the Militia of all the Districts was appointed to be mustered by my Order, thus taking an

"Gentlemen Deputies

"Through the three Gentlemen approved by the Deputation, Philip Hicky, Samuel Lo and Joseph Thomas Esquires, I received on 28th of this month the message which the held with my permission addressed to me under the date of the twenty seventh Instant." —

"Being informed of its contents, I have to testify to You how much it is tranquilizing and satisfactory to me to see the unanimity existing among the Deputies of the people; shewing above all their Patriotism in the beginning of their deliberations, with the view of promoting the security, honour and fidelity of this part of the Dominions of our beloved King and Lord Ferdinand the seventh." —

"When I was informed of the attempts made to create disturbances in this faithful population I did not doubt a moment of the general loyalty of those who had not ceased to give proofs of it since they took the proper oath to the Spanish Standard and in this persuasion, I sent immediately George Mather & Philip Hicky Esquires to Bayou Sarah, (from whence all alarming News appeared to come) in Order th in Concert with the Commandant there, appl an assembly, of the Inhabitants to be held, because I hoped that soon they should be met together, the less informed would be quieted, and there would be a cessation of uneasiness arising from the perverse insinuations inculcated by the evil minded, envious of our loyalty and harmony, and from thence has arisen the present assembly which I have "the superior authority, but as being by the Royal Ordinanc the Chief alone responsible for his operations & dispositi I cannot admit of it; although I think I know the good intentions with which you are pleased to make this offer as well as for the generous testimony to support my salary at your Charge; neither can I agree to this, being very satisfied & honoured by the pay I receive from the King my Lord and Master Ferdinand the seventh; But as I must presume this proposal originates in a patriotic offer, this being the case, when I shall be informed of the sum and explanation, I will make it known to my superiors that they may dispose of it either in applying it to the expences of this Government or any other use they may think best".

"The Choice you have made among yourselves for drawing up your representations, seems to me very well, it having fallen on persons who deserve in my Opinion the just repute acquired by their constant zeal for the general good, as do also all those elected by the people to the Assembly."—

"You inform me & I approve that you meet again the second monday of August the five Commissaries remaining in Session to whom I shall Communicate in case of necessity what may occur"

"May God preserve you many Years.—

"Baton Rouge 30th July 1810—

signed "Carlos Dehault Delassus.

Mr. Mills from the committee appointed to draft a Plan for the redress of the existing grievances, and for the defence and safety of the Country Reported a bill providing

for the Public safety, and for the better ad=
=ministration of Justice within the Jurisdiction
of Baton Rouge in West Florida, which being
read was ordered to lie on the Table. —

George Mather Junr Secy John Rhea Presiden

Tuesday August 14th

The Convention met according to adjournment, Present
the same members as Yesterday, when the bill providing
for the Public safety and for the better administration
of Justice was ordered to a second reading, when
several amendments being made & Messrs John
Mills, William Barrow & John W. Leonard, being
appointed a Committee to fill up the blanks
therein the Convention adjourned until tomorrow
morning at 9 OClock. —

George Mather Junr Secy John Rhea P

Wednesday 15th

The Convention met according to adjournment &
Mr Lopez made known to the Convention that he
dissented from certain articles contained in the Bill
providing for the public safety, and for the better
administration of Justice, which he would specify
when the same should be translated in the Spanish
Language and requested that the same be entered
on the Journal —

On motion of Mr Lilley seconded by Mr Thomas
Resolved that the Convention adjourn this afternoon
to meet at the Town of Baton Rouge on Wednesday
next the 22d Inst. and Messrs John W. Leonard,
Manuel Lopez, William Spiller, ~~and~~ Joseph Thomas
& Benjamin Williams
be a Committee to wait on his Excellency the
Governor with an address from this Convention
and to lay before him a copy of our resolutions

respecting the Existing grievances and also the Bill providing for the public safety and for the better administration of Justice in the Jurisdiction of Baton Rouge West Florida as now amended so soon as the same can be translated into the Spanish language and request his Concurrence with this convention in adopting the same as an Ordinance to have the force & authority of Law within this Jurisdiction. —

On Motion of Mr Lilley, seconded by Mr Hicky. Resolved that the said Committee be authorised by this Convention to request Messrs Gilbert Leonard and Morhon to translate the aforesaid Bill & resolutions into the Spanish Language to be submitted to the Consideration of his Excellency —

On Motion Resolved that Messrs William Ba John Rhea, Thomas Lilley, and Joseph Thoma be a Committee to prepare an address to his Excellency Governor Delassus and that the said Committee report this afternoon.

Mr Lilley from the committee appointed for that purpose reported an address to his Excellency the Governor in the following words.

St Johns Plains August 15th 1810.

To his Excellency Charles Dehault Delassus Colo
of the Royal Armies, and Governor Civil &
Military of the place and Jurisdiction of Baton
Rouge &c &c &c. —

Sir

The representatives of the people of the jurisdiction have received the communication we your Excellency was pleased to make to their Committee of the date of the 30th ultimo and have given due Consideration to its Contents. In Obedience to the injunctions of our Constituents who are prepared to rally round the standard of their Country and provide some efficient remedy for the evils which endanger its existence and prosperity; we have directed our attention to some of the existing grievances which require to be remedied without delay, and after mature deliberation we have reduced them to the number and form exhibited in the Statem enclosed herewith. The Plan proposed to be adopted for their redress will also be submitted to your consideration by our Committee appointed for that purpose Consisting of Messrs John W. Leonard, Manuel Lopez, William Spiller and Joseph Thoma and Benjamin O Williams So soon as a faithful translation thereo Can be Obtained, that Your Excellency havin all the subjects of our deliberation before You in the same order as they have presented them to us, may descern their Connection, and giv to each the consideration which its importan may seem to deserve. We have thought it duty to lay before You all our proceedings in this manner, that you may have sufficient time for deliberations on subjects so essential to the public welfare, before making any decision thereon. And on Wednesday

next

next the 22d Inst. we will do ourselves the hon
to wait on your Excellency in a body to know
your determination — You will observe that it is
the wish of the Convention with your Concurrence to
establish the "Bills providing for the Public safety
and for the better administration of Justice ~~in~~
within the Jurisdiction of Baton Rouge in West
Florida" as an Ordinance to have the force and
authority of Law from the time of Our next
meeting and we trust that you will not withhold
your Concurrence from a Measure evidently Calculated
to preserve the peace and promote the prosperity
of the Province. The Critical situation of the
Country pointed out to the representatives the neceſsity
of prompt and efficient measures and urges them
to solicit your Excellency for a speedy approbation
The dangers of delay must be apparent to Your
discerning Mind hence the neceſsity of a decision
here without reference to higher Authority. The desire
ever manifested by his Majesty's Government for
meeting the wishes of the People is a pledge to you
of his approbation of Your Conduct in this instance
and the aſsurances formerly given by this Convention
of sharing with you all responsibility is again
~~again~~ pledged in the most solemn manner in
Case of your Cooperation in the only measure
which appears to us calculated to save our Country
from the dreadful scenes of anarchy & tumult

We cannot close this addreſs without recom-
mending strongly to your Excellency as a measure of
neceſsary precaution to arm the whole body of the
a Militia to defend Our Country against its .

enemies as we are authorised to assure You that no sentiment prevails among the inhabitants hostile to the Wise Laws and Government under which they have lived so happy.

God preserve You many Years.—

And the same being read was unanimously agreed to and order'd to be signed by the President & One of the secretaries and deliver'd to the Committee appointed to present the same to his Excellency. — The Convention then adjourned

George Mather Junr Secy John Rhea

Baton Rouge Wednesday August 22d 1810.

The Convention met agreable to adjournment present Messrs John Rhea, John H Johnson William Barrow John Mills, Philip Hicky Thomas Lilley, Manuel Lopez, John Morgan Edmund Hawes, John W. Leonard, Joseph Thomas, William Spiller & Benjamin O Williams and having received information from his Excellency Charles Dehault Delassus that he was prepared to make a communication in answer to their address of the 15th Instant On Motion it is Resolved that this convention do now wait upon his Excellency in a body to receive the said communication. Whereupon the members aforesaid having assembled in the Government House; and His Excellency being then there also present informed the Convention that the Bill providing for the public Safety and for the better administ of Justice within the Jurisdiction of Baton Ro in West Florida having been communicated to him by their Committee, he approved the same and was ready to concur with them in establishing the same as an Ordinance to have the force and Authority of Law within this Jurisdiction until the Pleasure of the Captain General of the Island of Cuba thereon be made Known. Whereupon it is Resolved ~~unanimously~~ by this Convention with the Concurrence of his Excellency Charles Dehault Delassus Colonel of the Royal Armies Governor Civil & Military of the place & Jurisdiction of Baton Rouge &ca that the said Bill be establish as an Ordinance to have the force and authority of law within this Jurisdiction until the same be submitted to the Captain General of the Island of Cuba and until his decision thereon be made Known, which said Ordinance is annexed to the Records, signed by all the members of this Convention except Manuel Lopez who enters his protest against the same in the following words-

« Notwithstanding the ordinances and regulations which appear in this Instrument, have no other object as I understand them than to preserve the tranquility of the Inhabitants of this Jurisdiction, and secure it against the machinations of the common enemy, nevertheless the Sovereignty having been deprived of its legitimate rights, by the determination of the Convention to name magistrates, to levy taxes, and exercise other powers which appertain to the prerogatives of our Sovereign, besides the disposition manifested by the Convention to deprive the chiefs legally authorised of the right to sell or grant the lands appertaining to the Royal domain: and moreover to violate the law of nations by their determination to deliver up any individual who for some crime may come to claim the protection of this Government. I cannot do leſs in conformity with my character as a Spaniard, and with my sincere desire to be ever subject to our Laws and Statutes, than to protest against whatever may be in opposition to them. In virtue of which I do so now and at all times when I shall have opportunity, according to the fidelity which I profeſs to our unfortunate King and Lord Ferdinand the Seventh - (Signed) Manuel Lopez."

On motion it is ordered that an addreſs be sent to his Excellency the Captain General of the Island of Cuba in the following terms -

"To his Excellency the Marquis of Someruelos, Capt. Genl. of the Island of Cuba, &c. &c.

Most Excellent Sir,

The inhabitants of the Districts composing the Juridiction of Baton Rouge in West Florida, represented by their Delegates in Convention aſsembled, respectfully addreſs themselves to you, and through you to the august body representing the legitmate sovereign of the Spanish nation, to expreſs their undimished attachment to the cause of our beloved King Ferdinand the seventh, and make known the measures which have been adopted, at this eventful period, to preserve tranquility within the said Districts, and secure ourselves against any insidious or open attacks of the enemies of our country. In adopting these measures, we are aware of the responsibility which we have taken upon ourselves, and trust that our perilous situation, our distance from any efficient force on which to depend for safety, and our sincere desire to leſsen as much as poſsible the burthens of a country engaged in a dubious contest for her own preservation, will be received with candor by the superior authorities, as considerations sufficient for our justification. Far from wishing to raise the standard of re

revolt

at this moment, when the mother Country is assailed and threatened with destruction, by enemies so numerous and formidable, we recollect the debt of gratitude which we owe to her, and would willingly contribute our part however inconsiderable it may appear to lessen the dreadful calamities which have befallen her. Hitherto we have been burthensome without being useful, but it is our wish that no part of the national treasure may hereafter for our benefit be diverted from more useful and important national purposes. In making this small offering to testify our good wishes for the patriotic and holy cause in which the destinies of the nation are involved, we become responsible for the support of a Government among us sufficient to preserve tranquility at home, and to employ the strength and resources of the Country in its defence. To carry into execution this plan, which it is hoped will be received with indulgence; it was found necessary to make some few changes in the system heretofore established, which will not however materially affect any of the important principles of Government, or the established laws of the Country. To adopt some uniform mode of taxation, to organise the Militia to act with sufficient promptitude in case of emergency, and to admit as residents among us, persons of known integrity, who may become interested in maintaining order and obedience to the laws, it became necessary to exercise the legislative power to a certain extent. - to secure the confidence of all who are well affected to the Government, which is so necessary in these perilous times, it is considered indispensible that the people should have a voice in the selection of officers to be entrusted with the administration of the laws — to restrain the unprincipled by examples of the speedy and condign punishment of offenders, and to afford an opportunity to all classes, the poor as well as the rich, of prosecuting with effect their just claims, and of obtaining redress for injuries without unnecessary expence or delay, it is found expedient to establish a tribunal among us having final jurisdiction in all cases both civil and criminal. —

It will be unnecessary to trouble your Excellency with a minute detail of the reasons for all the measures establi ed by the ordinance providing for the public safety and fu the better administration of justice within this jurisdiction, a copy of which will be transmitted without delay, as you will readily perceive that they have been dictated by necessity for our own preservation or by the desire of approving ourselves not altogether unworthy to participate with our brethren in the [illegible] glorious struggle for our country's Independence. In our deliberations for this purpose it has been our desire to make as little innovation as possible in the existing laws of the country, and to obtain the approbation of superior authorities. Our immediate first magistrate his Excellency Charles Dehault Delassus, being well informed of the necessity for some speedy remedy to be applied for the existing evils and the dangers which threaten us, has evinced at the same time his fidelity to the Government and affection for the people under his command, by giving his sanction to the measures so essential for the tranquility of of this Province, until your decision thereon can be obtained.

We have only to add the assurance that our prayers are unceasing for the success of the cause in which our beloved country is engaged, and that if any impropriety be found in our present conduct, we will rejoice to hear and obey the mandate of our legitimate sovereign restored to the throne, as well as to the affections of a much injured people, calling us to resume our station among the multitude of his faithful subjects.

God preserve you many years —

Baton Rouge, August 22nd 1810.

Whereupon the following addreſs to the Inhabita being read, was unanimously agreed to, and being signed by his Excellency with all the members of the convention present was ordered to be publishe in each District without delay. — Viz:

To the Inhabitants of the Jurisdiction of Baton Rouge.

His Excellency Charles Dehault Delaſsu Colonel of the Royal Armies & Governor Civil and Military of the Place and Jurisdiction of Baton Rouge with the Representatives of the People of the said Jurisdiction in convention aſsembled announce that the measures proposed to be adopted for the public safety and for the better administration of Justice within the said Jurisdiction are sanctioned and established as Ordinances to have the force and Authority of Law within the several Districts of this Jurisdiction until the same be submitted to the Captain General of the Island of Cuba and until his decision thereon be made known — The said Ordinances will be made public in each District with all poſsible dispatch, and in the mean time all the good people of this Jurisdiction are required to preserve good order and avoid every movement which might disturb the public tranquility, It being the only wish of both of the Governor & the Representatives to consult the best interests of the inhabitants; and altho it is not intended to mark with severity the authors of the disorder which has appeared in several parts of the Country for some time past Yet All such persons as may be found offendin

in

in that manner after this date, will be
punished with the severity which the law
prescribes ~~and~~ which their offences may desi

Baton Rouge August 22d 1810.

The convention then adjourned until tomorrow
9. oclock George Mather Junr Secy John Rhea

Thursday August 23d —

The convention met according to adjournmen
the same members present as Yesterday when
a message was received from his Excellency
the Governor requesting to know at what pla
the convention would hold their Session, to
which the following answer was returned

To his Excellency Charles Dehault Delassu
Present.

Sir

In compliance with the request of
Your Excellency the convention of Representativ
make known to You that our Session will be
held at the house of Mr Thomas Egan in
this Town, during the present week or until
the business before us be finished. If it
should be found expedient to continue our Se
for a longer time or to adjourn to some oth
place, we will not fail to give you noti
thereof in due time. —

God preserve You many Years.

When the Convention adjourned untill to morrow 9
oclock.

George Mather Junr Secy John Rhea

Friday August 24th

The convention met according to adjournment
Present the same members as Yesterday.

On motion Resolved that his Excellency Governor Delassus highly merits the thanks of this Convention in behalf of all the good people of this Jurisdiction, for approving the measures adopted by the delegates, to preserve the lives, fortunes and tranquility of their respective constituents —

On motion it is ordered that the seniority of the Regiments of Militia, within this Jurisdiction be now determined by Lot, whereupon the Lots being drawn it is decided that the Regiment within the District of Baton Rouge be designated as the first — The Regiment within the District of St. Helena the Second. The Regiment within the District of New Feliciana the Third, and the Regiment within the District composed of the settlement east of Tangipahoa, the fourth Regiment.

The following appointments were then made by the Convention Viz.

Robert Percy of New Feliciana, Fulwar Skipwith of Baton Rouge, & Shepherd Brown of St. Helena to be associate Judges of the Superior Court. — Joseph E. Johnson of New Feliciana Sheriff, and Andrew Steele of Baton Rouge Register of land Claims for this Jurisdiction. — Gilbert Leonard of Baton Rouge, Bryan McDermot of New Feliciana and Daniel Rainer of St. Helena to be civil commandants, each for the District in which he resides.

Officers of Militia

Philemon Thomas Colonel Commandant of all the ~~Jurisdiction~~ Militia of this Jurisdiction

Isaac Johnson Major of Cavalry —

1st Regiment of Infantry

Samuel Fulton Colonel
George Mather Junr 1st Major
Rheuben Curtis — 2d Major

2d Regiment

William Spiller colonel —
Joseph Thomas 1st Major —
Abraham Spears 2d Major —

3d Regiment

Aquila Whiteacre Colonel —
Robert McCausland 1st Major
Robert Young — 2d Major —

On motion Resolved that the present representation of each District in this Convention shall have the power during the receſs of th Convention to appoint any Civil or Militar Officer within their respective Districts in all cases wherein the person first nam by this convention may refuse to serve.

On motion resolved that with the consent of the Governor, One Hundred Copies of the Ordinance established by this Convention, and Two Hundred Blank Commiſsions be printed as soon as poſsible — The copies of the Ordinance to be placed at the disposition of the President of the Convention, and the Commiſsions deposited in the Office of the Government; and that Mr James M. Bradford, be employed to superinten the printing of the same. —

On motion Resolved that the Inhabita of Towns and Villages within this Juris-diction be authorised to form such local Regulations within the same as may be conducive to their own Convenience and prosperity not contrary to the general established Laws of the Country.—

On Motion Resolved that this convention with the consent of the Governor, have the ~~right~~ power to borrow money on the credit of the Government, and the revenue of the same, whenever the public service may require it.—

On Motion of Mr John W. Leonard seconded by Mr Spiller, Resolved that Chefuncte, Bog Chitto and Pearl River Settlements lying between the east Side of Panchitoola and the West side of Pearl River, and extending from the Lakes to the line of Demarkation become a District, and entitled to an equal representation with the other Districts of this Jurisdiction according to the number of their Inhabitants.—

The Convention then adjourned until tomorrow morning at 6. oclock.

George Mather Junr Secy   John Rhea President

Saturday August 25th.

The convention Met according to adjournment, present the same members as Yesterday except Mr Lilley.—

On motion of Mr Johnson seconded by Mr Thomas. Resolved that all the Physicians and Surgeons now residing and exercising their profession with the permission of the Government within this Jurisdiction, be formed into a Medical society, with permission to assemble from time to time, for the purpose of debating on subjects relating to their profession, and of Communicating to each other such interesting cases, as may occur in Practice The said Society shall hold their first meeting at St Francis ville on the first day of October next, any six or more to form a society, and shall meet afterwards on their own adjournments, they shall have power to form such bye laws for the Government of the society as to them may seem fit and expedient, not inconsistent with any of the general laws of the Country, and they shall form a bill of rates for Medical and Surgical services, which they shall make public without unnecessary delay - and the same shall thereafter be recognised by the Trybunals of Justice within this Jurisdiction, as the established r of the Country for such services —

Resolved that the said Medical society be authorised and required to choose annually three or more of their members to form a Committee for the purpose of examining a persons who may hereafter come within this Jurisdiction, with a view of exercising the profession of Medicine or Surgery or any branch thereof, and of granting licences to such as they may find sufficiently skilled in the profession which they may propose to exercise as aforesaid, who shall thereafter ~~become~~ be members of the said Medical Society - and any person who shall be found exercising either of said professions within this Jurisdiction after this year, not now exercising the same with the permission of Government, nor duly licensed by the committee of the Medical Society aforesaid shall forfeit and pay a fine not less than One Hundred Dollars nor more than Five Hundred Dollars at the discretion of any of the District courts of this Jurisdiction, one half of such fine to be paid to any person who may sue for the same and the other half to the Commandant for the use of the District.

On motion of Mr Hickey seconded Mr Leonard Resolved that permission be given to some person of good Character and peaceable conduct, nominated by this convention to establish a printing Office at the town of Baton Rouge for the public Convenience, who shall be subject to such regulations as the Governor of this Jurisdiction may prescribe, whereupon Mr Joseph, B. Baird of New Orleans was nominated as printer for this Jurisdiction to be subject to the regulations aforesaid.

On motion resolved that Messrs Thomas and Leonard be a Committee to wait on his Excellency with a list of the appointments made by this Convention, and to deliver to him the following address. —

To His Excellency Charles Dehault Delassus
&c. &c.

Sir

The convention of Representatives think it their duty again to request your attention to the subject of arming the Militia for the defence of the Country, as one of the first importance, and not to be neglected by those who are entrusted with providing for the public safety — since our first meeting we have been unanimous in the opinion that the defenceless state of the Country, from the want of Arms in the hands of the people who are well affected to the Government was a grievance of the most alarming nature; and in the Ordinance which has been submitted for your approbation, it is provided "that those of the Militia who may not be able to furnish themselves with Arms shall be furnished with the same from the public arsenal in such manner as shall be hereafter provided" It was considered by us that your approbation of the measures proposed in the said Ord nance, implied your concurrence with us in the opinion that this measure was proper and necessary, and that you would permit the arms to be distributed as soon as the Militia should be organised, in some way whi might be agreed upon, so as to furnish a sufficient security to the Government that th Arms should not be lost or destroyed. —

Having now nominated the principle Officers of the Militia, whose names we tr mit to you herewith, it is hoped that in a short time, all the effective force of the cou try will be enrolled in Companies and prepared to act with promptitude in its defen and we hope that you will concur with us in arranging some general Plan, by whi those who have it not in their power to provide Arms immediately, may obtain from the public Arsenal those which we conceive were intended to be employed in the service for which we now require them — together with such quantity of amunition as may be necessary for present use. —

God preserve You many Years"

On motion Resolved that when the business now before the Convention be finished, the present Session shall be closed and the Convention adjourned to meet on the first monday of November next at the house of Richard Devall Esqr. at St. John's Plains, that no new business shall be entered upon at this Session, and the President be authorised to call a meeting of the Convention at any other time and place on request of any five members thereof. —

On motion Resolved that in case of any vacancy happening by the Death or resignation of any of the present members of this Convention before the said first monday of November next, the said vacancy shall be filled by an election within the District in which it may have occured, according to such regulations as the Commandant thereof may prescribe. —

The Convention then adjourned until Monday morning at 6 O'Clock.

John Rhea President
George Mather Junr. Secy.

Monday August 27th

The Convention met according to adjournment present

X the same members as on Saturday last with Mr. Thomas Lilley and Mr. William Cooper —

A communication was received from his Excellency the Governor of which the following is a translation;

"Gentlemen Deputies,

In reply to your Letter of this day, I ought to observe that the Arms which are in the Royal Magazines, are destined for the defence of this Fort, and of the Place of which the command is intrusted to me against the enemies of our flag: and You may be assured that when I shall be informed in detail of the real existing force, and of the individuals who have not Arms to defend the cause of our Legitimate Monarch Ferdinand the seventh, I will give my dispositions that they may be provided in the manner which You solicit.—

Whatever regards the plans of defence being on my responsibility and duty when the Officers of the General Staff shall have been appointed and shall have accepted each one his Commission I will ~~Consult~~ Concert with them, the dispositions which You propose to me in the said letter. Altho' no translation of Your deliberations has yet been presented to me, and I have not been sufficiently informed of them, to make the amendments and observations, which may appear to me for the general good of the whole Jurisdiction as was expressed to You on the day You presented Yourselves to me, I approve generally of the persons You have nominated to serve in the different employments both Civil & Military which your second letter of this date announces, but I ought to observe that altho' I believe Mr. Fulwar Skipwith possesses the qualifications necessary to fill the Office for which you have recommended him, our Laws prohibit any Stranger who has not resided two Years in the Country and taken the oath

of fidelity to the Government to enjoy
or exercise the privileges of Spanish Subjects
and further the said Mr Skipwith made
known to me that he would not accept
any Office, for which reason it becomes
necessary for You to choose another —
The office of Brigadier General not being
known in our Military Ordinances it appears
to me that Mr Philemon Thomas may
exercise the same Office with the Title
of Colonel Commandant of all the
Militia of this Jurisdiction until
the approbation of the Captain General.

God Preserve You many Years. —

Baton Rouge 25th August 1810. —

(Signed) Carlos Dehault Delassus

To the Deputies of the Inhabitants of the
Jurisdiction of Baton Rouge". —

On motion Resolved that it shall be the duty
of the Commandant of each District accompanied by two or more of the Alcaldes as soon as
they shall have been commissioned to receive
the Archieves of the District in which he
resides with a proper inventory of the same
and that the Commandant of the District of
of Baton Rouge shall receive and keep the
Archieves of this Jurisdictions until they
be otherwise disposed of by the Superior
Court. —

The convention then adjourned until tomorrow
morning 6 o'Clock —

George Mather Junr
Secy

John Rhea Presdt

Tuesday August 28th

The Convention met according to adjournment, pre
the same members as yesterday.
On motion resolved that an address be prepared an
sent to his Excellency in reply to his communica
of yesterday – Whereupon the following being propo
was agreed to, and forwarded accordingly, viz
"Señor Gobernador "The Convention of Rep
sentatives in reply to the Communication of you
Excellency of the 25th Instant have to observe that a
though it is not intended to make any unnec
innovation in the existing laws of the country,
at the present Crisis in which the preservation
the Province becomes the primary object of atten
we conceive it our duty to deviate in some poin
minor importance, from the established laws
some important advantage may result from
the change. The appointment of Mr. Skipwith
to be one of the Judges of the Superior Court, we
consider to be justifiable on this principle, al
he be not entitled to that office from the time
of his residence among us – To obtain a Gentleman
of his capacity and good characte
in that station, we believe ourselves justifiable
at the present moment in deviating a little
from ancient forms. The change which
you propose of the title of the Commanding
officer of the Militia we have no objection to
make, as it will in no wise affect the general
regulations for the organization of the Militia
to conform in this instance to the establishe
Military ordinances of the country.

God preserve you many years"

"Baton Rouge 28th August 1810."

The Convention then adjourned until Tomorrow morning at 9 Oclock. John Rhea President
And. Steele Secy

Wednesday August 29th

The Convention met according to adjournment, present the same members as yesterday

On motion Resolved that this Convention with the consent of the Governor, have power to borrow money on the credit of the Government, and the Revenue of the same, whenever the public service may require.

On motion Resolved that Abner Beckham Esqr be directed to cause an election to be made in the settlements of Tanchepaho, Bogchito and Pearl river, by the free voice of the inhabitants to represent them in the next Convention to be held at St John's Plains on the first monday of November next— And that three members may be elected by the said inhabitants including Mr Cooper who still continues a member of the Convention.

On motion Resolved that during the recess of this Convention any six or more members thereof being called by the President in case of emergency shall have full powers to do all acts which in their opinion the public safety may require.

On motion Resolved that this Convention do now wait upon his Excellency the Governor to obtain his approbation of the appointment of officers made by this Convention on the 24th Instant, whereupon the members being aſsembled in the Government house, and a list of the names of the said officers being presented to his Excellency he expreſsed his approbation thereof, and affixed his signature to the same. —

The Convention then adjourned. —

And. Steele Secy   John Rhea President